



# Office of Mine Safety and Licensing

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Quarterly News October—December

KY EEC DNR

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## A Word From The Executive Director



As we come to the end of 2010, we remember the success and failures of the past year. We began 2010 as we do each year, with the primary mission of seeing that every Kentucky coal miner returns home safely to their families. Of course that goal was not realized in 2010 because seven of our miners were lost in mining accidents. As we express our deepest condolences to the families of these seven miners, we are committed to doing everything in our power to prevent similar accidents from occurring in the coming years. As we face 2011, let each of us in the mining industry remain committed to our goal of having a zero fatality year in Kentucky. We have many challenges in realizing this goal, but I am firmly convinced that by working together, and with the help of God, this goal can become a reality.

At the beginning of 2010, because of a sluggish economy and other factors, the number of licensed mines was drastically reduced to 361. Of these, 172 were underground operations and 189 were surface mining operations. Thankfully during the year the number continued to rise and at the end of 2010 the number of licensed mines was 467. Of these, 196 were underground operations and 271 were surface mining operations. The Kentucky mining industry is such a vital part of our economy, providing much needed jobs for Kentucky families.

During 2010, the Office of Mine Safety and Licensing Training and Education Division was proud to serve the Kentucky mining industry by training and/or testing 28,907 Kentucky miners at our six district offices. The Office of Mine Safety's Mine Safety Analysis provided six hours annual foreman retraining for 5,004 Kentucky certified mine foremen; 2,268 were surface foremen and 2,736 were underground foremen.

The Mine Safety Analysis Division observed 10,734 miners performing their duties during 2010 and discussed with them 2,081 unsafe acts that may, if not corrected, cause a mining injury/accident.

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## Fatalities and Serious Injuries

### Fatality 1

Oct. 27, 2010

**James Falk**

Madisonville District

Underground

Riverview Coal, LLC

Riverview Mine

Powered Haulage



### Fatality 2

Nov. 23, 2010

**Rhett Mosley**

Harlan District

Surface

Rex Coal Co. Inc.

Rex Strip #1

Powered Haulage

To view a full report please go to:

[HTTP://OMSL.KY.GOV/PAGES/KENTUCKYCOALMINEFATALACCIDENTREPORTS.aspx](http://OMSL.KY.GOV/PAGES/KENTUCKYCOALMINEFATALACCIDENTREPORTS.aspx)

### **Serious Injury:**

Oct. 29, 2010

**Anthony Smith**

Infinity Energy Inc.

Harlan District

Machinery

**Make It A Point To Practice Safe Working Habits. It's Something We Can All Live With.**

## A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONT.

As a result of the Kentucky Drug Free Work Place program, 1,329 Kentucky miners were reported for violating their drug free status. These miners were working in Kentucky mining operations and could have been a danger to themselves and other miners around them. Consequently, 229 miners were placed on probation by the Kentucky Mine Safety Review Commission and allowed to return to work in the industry. These miners must be tested monthly and have an evaluation by a medical professional trained in substance abuse. They are also required to complete any treatment the counselor prescribes. An additional 371 miners have returned to work as a result of completing their probationary period. The goal of the Drug Free Work Place is not to permanently ban miners from the Kentucky mining industry, but to ensure these miners receive the help they need and remain drug free when they come back to the industry.

During 2010, the Mine Inspection Division completed all of its mandated underground and surface inspections.

OMSL's 12 mine rescue teams will have completed all of its MSHA training mandates by June 17, 2011 and will continue to provide signature mine rescue coverage to the Kentucky mining industry.

## Chinese Delegation Visits Kentucky

In November, 20 delegates from China received a full briefing of OMSL's programs and how the state's mining accident rates have been reduced through programs created specifically for Kentucky. With the help of interpreters, OMSL's directors explained how Kentucky's safety programs operate, including the use of safety analysts, the frequency of mine inspections and procedures, severity of penalties when violations are found, and legislation that regulates the industry. Kentucky takes great pride and continues to build on its reputation for mine safety.

**Right:** Chinese delegates pictured with OMSL directors.



**Left: (left to right)** OMSL Executive Director Johnny Greene, mine visitor, Dr. Yue Wu, Cathy Cao, and Pikeville District Supervisor Mike Elswick visit the McCoy Elkhorn Coal Corporation, Mine #23 in the Pikeville district.



# Mine Rescue Competition

Each year OMSL's mine rescue teams participate in the OMSL interagency mine rescue contest. The contest is conducted under OMSL mine rescue team and command center training manual rules on one of OMSL's three 23 acre mine rescue fields. The contest rules are designed to simulate, as close as possible, actual mine rescue scenarios. OMSL mine rescue teams are committed to a heightened state of readiness should Kentucky miners need help.



The Region 1 Mine Rescue Competition was held on Oct. 19, 2010 on the Leslie County mine rescue field. Those competing in the district competition were Barbourville, Harlan and Hazard.

**Pictured above:** A representative from the Barbourville team geared up for action.

**Top Right:** Members of the Hazard team.

**Bottom Right:** A member of the Harlan team ready for the competition.



**Congratulations to our Region 1 Winner: Barbourville Team**



## Mine Rescue Competition

The Region 2 Mine Rescue Competition took place on Oct. 20, 2010 on the Pikeville district field.

The teams competing were Martin, Pikeville and Madisonville.



**Top Left:** Martin team performing their mine rescue skills.

**Top Right:** Pikeville team advancing in simulated mine.



**Left:** A member of the Madisonville team

**Congratulations to our Region 2 winner: Madisonville Team**



# OMSL Mine Rescue Competition Finals

The OMSL Mine Rescue Finals were held on Oct. 27, 2010 at the Madisonville district mine rescue field. The finale was comprised of the Region 1 winner, Barbourville and the Region 2 winner, Madisonville. Although both teams did a great job, it was Madisonville that won the competition.



**Top Left:** Barbourville team advancing with smoke blinders on face masks.

**Top Right:** Madisonville team spread out and advancing in mine.

**Right:** Ronnie Drake receiving award from Secretary Peters. Pictured left to right: Secretary Len Peters, Madisonville district supervisor Ronnie Drake, OMSL Executive Director Johnny Greene and Deputy Commissioner Larry Arnett.



**Congratulations to Madisonville on a job well done!**

# Retirements

"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under the trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time."

~J. Lubbock



**William D. Vance** was hired by OMSL on Dec. 1, 1990 and worked until he retired on Dec. 31, 2010. Bill worked for Hayes Metal Co. then went to work for the Ford Motor Co. in Michigan in 1966 and 1971. He returned to Kentucky as a repairman/mechanic at Pevler Complex at Island Creek in Martin County, working in the mining industry. Bill worked at Hayes Metal, changing out scoops and

making repairs. He worked for Turner Elkhorn Mining Co., operating a mine and then was a mining company owner/operator in business for himself. Bill is an underground and surface mine inspector, hoist inspector, mine rescue team member, and he participated in mine rescue training and accident investigations. Bill was originally hired as a regular inspector and then became an electrical inspector.

Bill has approximately 43 years of mining experience. During his retirement he plans to spend time with and take care of his family. We wish Bill the best during his retirement!



**Earl Dean Martin** was hired by OMSL on July 7, 1986 and worked until his retirement date of Dec. 31, 2010. Earl Dean was in the military for several years, worked briefly as a correctional officer, and was also employed at National Mines in the mining industry. When Earl came to the Department of Mines and Minerals in 1986, he worked as a miner operator, roof bolter operator, scoop operator, loader operator, motor operator, electrician, section set-up and service crews, sec-

tion foreman, shotfirer, coal drill operator, cutting machine, ram car operator, first aid team member, mine inspector, safety analyst, underground mine instructor, mine rescue team member, and he participated in mine rescue training and accident investigations. You could say that Earl was the jack of all trades.

Earl has approximately 35 years of mining experience. In retirement, he plans to enjoy life by spending more time with his family and staying physically fit by playing golf. Enjoy your retirement!

**KY EEC DNR**

**We're on the Web!**

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To view OMSL Disciplinary cases  
before the Kentucky Mine Safety  
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**OMSL.KY.GOV**



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